

TIME IN DATABASES AND APPLICATIONS OF DATABASES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A bitemporal relational database is disclosed having data entries relating
to entities which have attributes having values. The values can vary over
system time (the time according to a computer system clock) and also
over valid time (the time for which the values of the attributes are true).
All logical operations of updates and deletes of values are performed by
10 insert operations inserting new entries into the database, so that all old
entries that were present at previous system times still exist. This
includes start times and end times for values of attributes. This database
architecture allows faster design of new applications, and can simplify
query operations on the database, provides roll-back and roll-forward
15 temporal functions, and other actions.